



## TESSELLATED DARTER

*Etheostoma olmstedii*

### **Description:**

- ◆ elongate; olive brown above with 6 dark saddles
- ◆ creamy white belly
- ◆ upper sides mottled with zigzags
- ◆ 9-11 dark mid-lateral 'X' and 'W' shaped markings
- ◆ large fins
- ◆ dorsal and caudal fins have thin, alternating dark and light bands

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 4.5 inches

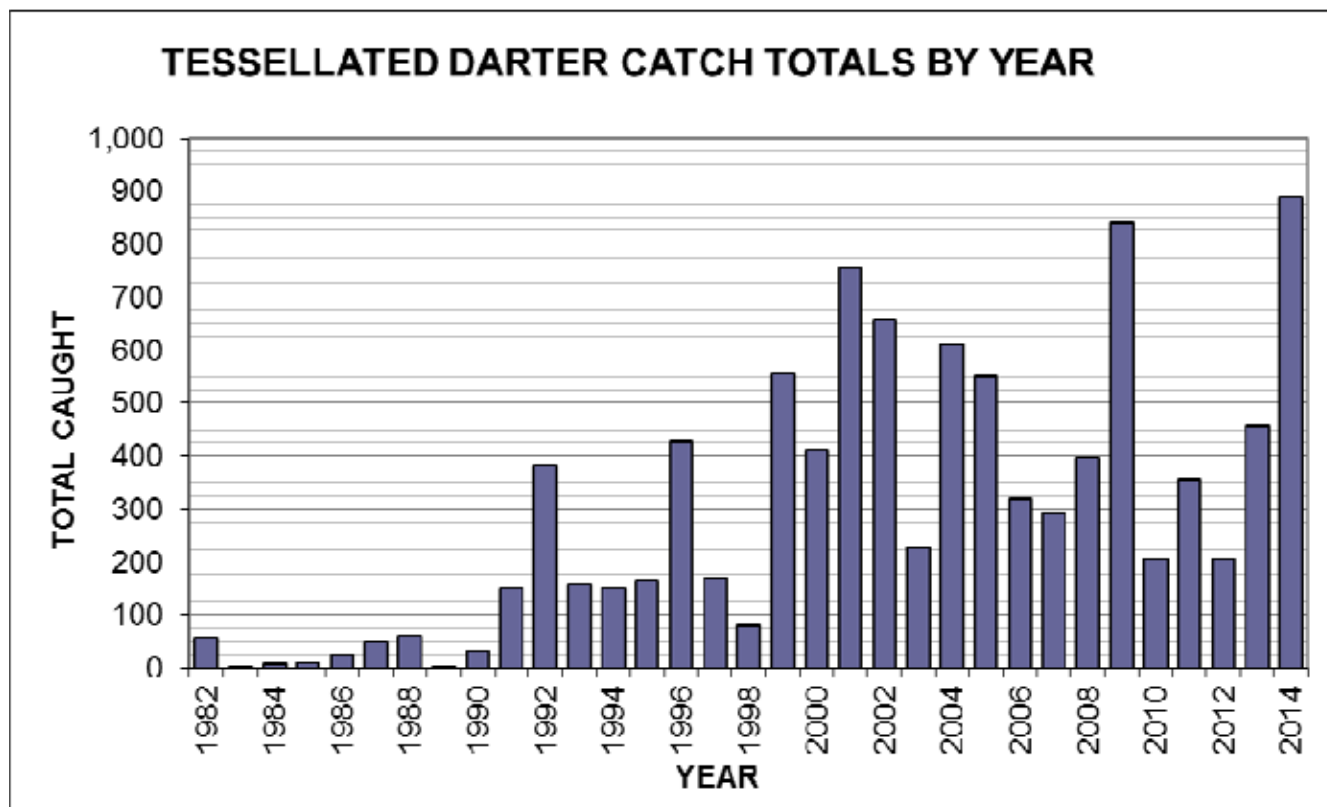
### **Range:**

- ◆ St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario drainages in south Quebec and southeast Ontario; Atlantic coast drainages to northeastern Florida (absent in Maine)

### **Facts:**

- ◆ spawns in a nest cavity, usually under rocks or logs

- ◆ eggs are deposited in a single layer spanning 1-3 inches
- ◆ primarily eats algae, fish eggs, insects and crustaceans
- ◆ member of the perch family
- ◆ prefers sand or mud bottomed lakes, rivers, and streams



\*tesselated darters were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
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